



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Inspection of Embassy Tripoli, Libya

Embassy Tripoli's deputy chief of mission, now the Chargé d'Affaires, *a.i.*, was focused on the bilateral relationship and on embassy morale in a difficult working environment. He provided a steady, decisive hand at the embassy's helm and continuity and consistency in implementing policy. Naming the deputy chief of mission as Chargé was the best decision for the Embassy.

Embassy Tripoli's political and economic reporting was impressive in quality and quantity, given a circumscribed reporting environment characterized by official harassment, stringent travel restrictions, and the capricious nature of Libyan governmental and quasi-government contacts. The Embassy received praise from Washington for reporting.

While Embassy Tripoli's move from a downtown hotel to two sites, about 12.5 miles apart was necessary, it was not ideal. The originally proposed timeline to renovate the Villas compound and unite the staff there was extended. The Office of Inspector General inspection team remained concerned that the timeline would change again and contracting for certain upgrades remained uncertain.

Consular relations with Libya were poor and not expected to improve until the Embassy's consular section began processing and issuing all visas, not just official visas, in Tripoli. The Department of State anticipated that this would help to lift limits and delays on Libyan visas for American citizens and improve bilateral relations in other areas.

The management section, located at the chief of mission residence, provided full support to the embassy staff with a small and still inexperienced locally employed staff. Housing was spacious, repairs and maintenance were timely, and communications connectivity was effective.